

Message Text

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ORIGIN MMO-04

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 AGR-10 SS-15 SP-02 PER-03 ABF-01

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NEA/EX-MR. JOHN CONNOLLY
NEA/EGY - GORDON R BEYER

----- 081918

R 110038Z MAR 76
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY CAIRO

UNCLAS STATE 059060

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS:AODE, EG, EAGR

SUBJECT: MODE - PROPOSAL TO REOPEN AGRICULTURAL ATTACHE
OFFICE

1. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE HAS SUBMITTED FORMAL PROPOSAL
TO REESTABLISH THE AGRICULTURAL ATTACHE OFFICE IN CAIRO TO
IMPROVE COVERAGE OF THE AGRICULTURAL SITUATION IN EGYPT
AND TO SERVICE US AGRICULTURAL TRADE INTERESTS IN THE AREA.

2. JUSTIFICATION PROVIDED BY AGRICULTURE DEPARTMENT READS
AS FOLLOWS:

QUOTE. THE RESUMPTION OF DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH EGYPT
CREATES A SITUATION CONDUCIVE TO AGRICULTURAL EXPORT
EXPANSION. EGYPT IS THE MOST IMPORTANT COUNTRY IN NORTH
AFRICA IN TERMS OF ITS IMPACT ON AGRICULTURAL TRADE.
IMPORTS FROM THE U.S. HAVE INCREASED FROM A VOLUME 123

MILLION DOLLARS IN 1973 TO ALMOST 500 MILLION DOLLARS IN
1975. SUCH EXPANSION OF AGRICULTURAL TRADE DEFINITELY
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REQUIRES THE EXPERTISE, GUIDANCE, AND SUPPORT WORK OF AN

AGRICULTURAL ATTACHE ON THE STAFF OF THE U.S. EMBASSY IN CAIRO.

THE DEPARTMENT (OF AGRICULTURE) ESTIMATES THAT FOUR MAN-YEARS WOULD BE REQUIRED ANNUALLY FOR THE OPTIMUM OPERATION OF AN AGRICULTURAL ATTACHE OFFICE IN CAIRO. THE STAFF COMPLEMENT PROPOSED WOULD INCLUDE AN ATTACHE, AN ASSISTANT ATTACHE, A LOCAL EGYPTIAN PROFESSIONAL, AND AN AMERICAN SECRETARY. THIS WOULD CONSTITUTE THE SAME STAFF SIZE AS WE HAD IN THE EMBASSY PRIOR TO CLOSING THE OFFICE IN 1968.

ALTHOUGH WE ANTICIPATE A STAFFING NEED OF FOUR POSITIONS, WE ARE AT THIS TIME PROPOSING AN INITIAL COMPLEMENT OF THREE: TWO U.S. CITIZENS (ONE PROFESSIONAL ATTACHE, ONE SECRETARY), AND ONE PROFESSIONAL FOREIGN NATIONAL. END QUOTE.

3. WOULD APPRECIATE RECEIVING FORMAL COMMENTS OF POST. (YOU WILL RECALL THAT IN EXCHANGE OF LETTERS BETWEEN DEPARTMENT HEADS LAST WINTER SECRETARY OF STATE CONCURRED IN COM VIEW THAT AGATT SHOULD PLAN TO ARRIVE NO EARLIER THAN JUNE.) INGERSOLL

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